(iii) Expediting allotment of captive coal blocks to private and public sector companies in order to enhance coal production.

(iv) 10 million tonnes of coal is offered under E-auction sale during the year 2005-06 to increase availability of coal to the non-linked consumers.

Ferry service between Mumbai and Karachi

†*232. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for starting a passenger-service for the passengers between Mumbai and Karachi through sea route;

(b) whether any discussion has taken place between Governments of both the countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Unemployed engineering/medical Graduates

*233. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of umemployed engineering and medical graduates in the country with State-wise, break-up;

(b) whether unemployment among technical/medical graduates is on the increase in the recent years; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce unemployment among youths belonging to this category?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) State-wise authentic data on the number of unemployed engineers and medical graduates are not available. However, number of engineers and medical graduates and postgraduates, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, registered with the employment exchanges as on December, 2003 was of the order of 2.2 lakh and 0.48 lakh respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.